

GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SUBTITLE B. INFORMATION AND PLANNING

CHAPTER 2051. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND NOTICES

SUBCHAPTER A. OFFICIAL SEALS

Sec. 2051.001. ADOPTION OF SEAL. A commission or board created by state law and a commissioner whose office is created by state law may adopt a seal with which to attest an official document, certificate, or other written paper.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

SUBCHAPTER B. PAPER SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Sec. 2051.022. STATE AGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER REQUIRED ON STATIONERY. (a) A state agency shall print a telephone number for the agency on the letterhead of its official stationery.

(b) In this section, "state agency" means:

(1) a board, commission, department, office, or other agency in the executive branch of state government that was created by the constitution or a statute of the state, including an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code;

(2) the legislature or a legislative agency;

(3) the supreme court, the court of criminal appeals, a court of appeals, or a state judicial agency; or

(4) a river authority.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

SUBCHAPTER C. NOTICE BY PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPER

Sec. 2051.041. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Governmental entity" means an institution, board, commission, or department of:

(A) the state or a subdivision of the state; or

(B) a political subdivision of the state,

including a municipality, a county, or any kind of district.

(2) "Governmental representative" includes an officer, employee, or agent of a governmental entity.

(3) "Notice" means any matter, including a proclamation or advertisement, required or authorized by law to be published in a newspaper by a governmental entity or representative.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 2051.042. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. (a) This subchapter applies only to the extent that the general or special law requiring or authorizing the publication of a notice in a newspaper by a governmental entity or representative does not specify the manner of the publication, including the number of times that the notice is required to be published and the period during which the notice is required to be published.

(b) This subchapter does not apply to the publication of a citation that relates to a civil suit and to which the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure apply.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 2051.043. PUBLICATION IN AT LEAST ONE ISSUE REQUIRED. Except as provided by Section [2051.046\(b\)](#) or [2051.048\(d\)](#), a notice shall be published in at least one issue of a newspaper.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 2051.044. TYPE OF NEWSPAPER REQUIRED. (a) The newspaper in which a notice is published must:

(1) devote not less than 25 percent of its total column lineage to general interest items;

(2) be published at least once each week;

(3) be entered as second-class postal matter in the county where published; and

(4) have been published regularly and continuously for at least 12 months before the governmental entity or representative publishes notice.

(b) A weekly newspaper has been published regularly and

continuously under Subsection (a) if the newspaper omits not more than two issues in the 12-month period.

(c) This section does not apply to the publication of a notice to which Section [2051.0441](#) applies.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1130, Sec. 1, eff. June 20, 2003.

Sec. 2051.0441. TYPE OF NEWSPAPER REQUIRED FOR PUBLICATION IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a notice published by a governmental entity or representative in a county:

(1) with a population of at least 30,000 and not more than 39,000 that borders the Red River; or

(2) that does not have a newspaper described by Section [2051.044](#) published in the county.

(b) The newspaper in which a notice is published under this section must:

(1) devote not less than 20 percent of its total column lineage to general interest items;

(2) be published at least once each week;

(3) be entered as periodical postal matter in the county where published or have a mailed or delivered circulation of at least 51 percent of the residences in the county where published; and

(4) have been published regularly and continuously for at least 12 months before the governmental entity or representative publishes notice.

(c) A weekly newspaper has been published regularly and continuously under Subsection (b) if the newspaper omits not more than two issues in the 12-month period.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1130, Sec. 2, eff. June 20, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 768 (H.B. [1812](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 17, 2011.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 799 (H.B. [2985](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 2051.045. LEGAL RATE CHARGED FOR PUBLICATION. The legal rate for publication of a notice in a newspaper is the newspaper's lowest published rate for classified advertising. Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 2051.046. NOTICE OF COUNTY. (a) A notice of a county shall be published in a newspaper published in the county that will publish the notice at or below the legal rate.

(b) If no newspaper that will publish the notice at or below the legal rate is published in the county, the notice shall be posted at the door of the county courthouse.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 2051.047. NOTICE OF CERTAIN CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION DISTRICTS. A conservation and reclamation district, other than a river authority, created under Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution that furnishes water and sewer services to household users satisfies a requirement of general, special, or local law to publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the district is located by publishing the notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the district.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 2051.048. NOTICE OF OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. (a) This section applies only to a political subdivision other than a county or a conservation and reclamation district under Section 2051.047.

(b) A notice of a political subdivision shall be published in a newspaper that is published in the political subdivision and that will publish the notice at or below the legal rate.

(c) If no newspaper published in the political subdivision will publish the notice at or below the legal rate, the political subdivision shall publish the notice in a newspaper that:

(1) is published in the county in which the political subdivision is located; and

(2) will charge the legal rate or a lower rate.

(d) If no newspaper published in the county in which the political subdivision is located will publish the notice at or below the legal rate, the political subdivision shall post the notice at the door of the county courthouse of the county in which the political subdivision is located.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 2051.049. SELECTION OF NEWSPAPER. The governmental entity or representative required to publish a notice in a newspaper shall select, in accordance with this subchapter, one or more newspapers to publish the notice.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 2051.050. TIME OF PUBLICATION. A notice must be published in a newspaper issued at least one day before the occurrence of the event to which the notice refers.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 2051.051. BILL FOR PUBLICATION. A newspaper that publishes a notice shall submit a bill for the publication with a clipping of the published notice and a verified statement of the publisher that:

(1) states the rate charged;

(2) certifies that the rate charged is the newspaper's lowest published rate for classified advertising; and

(3) certifies the number and dates of the publication.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 2051.052. CANCELLATION OF PUBLISHING CONTRACT. The comptroller or a district or county official required to publish a notice may cancel a contract executed by the comptroller or official for the publication if the comptroller or official determines that the newspaper charges a rate higher than the legal rate.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 937 (H.B. [3560](#)), Sec. 1.64,

eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 2051.053. REFUSAL OF NEWSPAPER TO PUBLISH NOTICE OR CITATION. (a) The refusal of a newspaper to publish, without receiving advance payment for making the publication, a notice or citation in a state court proceeding in which the state or a political subdivision of the state is a party and in which the cost of the publication is to be charged as fees or costs of the proceeding is considered an unqualified refusal to publish the notice or citation.

(b) The sworn statement of the newspaper's publisher or the person offering to insert the notice or citation in the newspaper is subject to record as proof of the refusal.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

SUBCHAPTER D. GEOSPATIAL DATA PRODUCTS

Sec. 2051.101. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Geospatial data product" means a document, computer file, or Internet website that contains:

- (A) geospatial data;
- (B) a map; or
- (C) information about a service involving geospatial data or a map.

(2) "Governmental entity" has the meaning assigned by Section [2051.041](#).

(3) "Registered professional land surveyor" has the meaning assigned by Section [1071.002](#), Occupations Code.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 127 (H.B. [1147](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Sec. 2051.102. NOTICE REQUIRED. (a) A governmental entity shall include a notice as provided by this subchapter on each geospatial data product that:

- (1) is created or hosted by the governmental entity;
- (2) appears to represent property boundaries; and
- (3) was not produced using information from an

on-the-ground survey conducted by or under the supervision of a registered professional land surveyor or land surveyor authorized to perform surveys under laws in effect when the survey was conducted.

(b) The notice required under Subsection (a) must be in substantially the following form:

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

(c) The notice required under Subsection (a) may:

(1) include language further defining the limits of liability of a geospatial data product producer;

(2) apply to a geospatial data product that contains more than one map; or

(3) for a notice that applies to a geospatial data product that is or is on an Internet website, be included on a separate page that requires the person accessing the website to agree to the terms of the notice before accessing the geospatial data product.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 127 (H.B. [1147](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Sec. 2051.103. EXEMPTION. A governmental entity is not required to include the notice required under Section [2051.102](#) on a geospatial data product that:

(1) does not contain a legal description, a property boundary monument, or the distance and direction of a property line;

(2) is prepared only for use as evidence in a legal proceeding;

(3) is filed with the clerk of any court; or

(4) is filed with the county clerk.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 127 (H.B. [1147](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

This Subchapter E, consisting of Secs. 2051.151 to 2051.161, was added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. [402](#)), Sec. 1. See also another Subchapter E, consisting of Secs. 2051.151 to 2051.152, as added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1029 (H.B. [305](#)), Sec. 1.

SUBCHAPTER E. UNIFORM ELECTRONIC LEGAL MATERIAL ACT

The following section was amended by the 87th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see H.B. [1154](#) and H.B. [3607](#), 87th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting the following section.

Sec. 2051.151. SHORT TITLE. This subchapter may be cited as the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. [402](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

The following section was amended by the 87th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see H.B. [1154](#) and H.B. [3607](#), 87th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting the following section.

Sec. 2051.152. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

(2) "Legal material" means, whether or not in effect:

(A) the constitution of this state;

(B) the general or special laws passed in a regular or special session of the Texas Legislature; and

(C) a state agency rule adopted in accordance with Chapter [2001](#).

(3) "Official publisher" means:

(A) for legal material described by Subdivision (2)(A), the Texas Legislative Council; and

(B) for legal material described by Subdivision (2)(B) or (C), the secretary of state.

(4) "Publish" means displaying, presenting, or releasing to the public, or causing to be displayed, presented, or

released to the public, legal material by the official publisher.

(5) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 2051.153. APPLICABILITY. (a) This subchapter applies to all legal material in an electronic record that is:

(1) designated as official by the official publisher under Section 2051.154; and

(2) first published electronically by the official publisher on or after January 1, 2021.

(b) The official publisher is not required to publish legal material on or before the date on which the legal material takes effect.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 2051.154. LEGAL MATERIAL IN OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC RECORD. (a) If the official publisher publishes legal material only in an electronic record, the official publisher shall:

(1) designate the electronic record as official; and

(2) comply with Sections 2051.155, 2051.157, and 2051.158.

(b) If the official publisher publishes legal material in an electronic record and also publishes the material in a record other than an electronic record, the official publisher may designate the electronic record as official if the official publisher complies with Sections 2051.155, 2051.157, and 2051.158.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 2051.155. AUTHENTICATION OF OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC RECORD. (a) If the official publisher designates an electronic record as official in accordance with Section 2051.154, the official publisher shall authenticate the record.

(b) The official publisher authenticates an electronic record by providing a method with which a person viewing the electronic record is able to determine that the electronic record is unaltered from the official record published by the official publisher.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 2051.156. EFFECT OF AUTHENTICATION. (a) Legal material in an electronic record that is authenticated as provided by Section 2051.155 is presumed to be an accurate copy of the legal material.

(b) If another state has adopted a law that is substantially similar to this subchapter, legal material in an electronic record that is authenticated in that state is presumed to be an accurate copy of the legal material.

(c) A party contesting the authenticity of legal material in an electronic record authenticated as provided by Section 2051.155 has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the record is not authentic.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 2051.157. PRESERVATION AND SECURITY OF LEGAL MATERIAL IN OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC RECORD. (a) The official publisher of legal material in an electronic record designated as official in accordance with Section 2051.154 shall provide for the preservation and security of the record in an electronic form or in a form that is not electronic.

(b) If legal material is preserved under Subsection (a) in an electronic record, the official publisher shall:

- (1) ensure the integrity of the record;
- (2) provide for backup and disaster recovery of the record; and
- (3) ensure the continuing usability of the legal material in the record.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1,

eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 2051.158. PUBLIC ACCESS. The official publisher of legal material in an electronic record that is required to be preserved under Section 2051.157 shall ensure that the material is reasonably available for use by the public on a permanent basis.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 2051.159. STANDARDS. In implementing this subchapter, the official publisher of legal material in an electronic record shall consider:

(1) the standards and practices of other jurisdictions;

(2) the most recent standards regarding authentication, preservation, and security of and public access to legal material in an electronic record and other electronic records, as adopted by national standard-setting bodies;

(3) the needs of users of legal material in electronic records;

(4) the views of governmental officials and entities and other interested persons; and

(5) to the extent practicable, the methods and technologies for the authentication, preservation, and security of and public access to legal material that are compatible with the methods and technologies used by official publishers in other states that have adopted a law that is substantially similar to this subchapter.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 2051.160. UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION. In applying and construing this subchapter, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to the subject matter of this subchapter among states that enact a law similar to this subchapter.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1,

eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 2051.161. RELATION TO ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT. This subchapter modifies, limits, and supersedes the federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (15 U.S.C. Section 7001 et seq.) but does not modify, limit, or supersede Section 101(c) of that Act (15 U.S.C. Section 7001(c)) or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in Section 103(b) of that Act (15 U.S.C. Section 7003(b)).

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

This Subchapter E, consisting of Secs. 2051.151 to 2051.152, was added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1029 (H.B. 305), Sec. 1.

See also another Subchapter E, consisting of Secs. 2051.151 to 2051.161, as added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 159 (H.B. 402), Sec. 1.

SUBCHAPTER E. INTERNET WEBSITE

The following section was amended by the 87th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see H.B. 1154 and H.B. 3607, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting the following section.

Sec. 2051.151. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. Except as provided by Section 2051.152(b), this subchapter applies only to a political subdivision with the authority to impose a tax that at any time on or after January 1, 2019, maintained a publicly accessible Internet website.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1029 (H.B. 305), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

The following section was amended by the 87th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see H.B. 1154 and H.B. 3607, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting the following section.

Sec. 2051.152. INFORMATION REQUIRED ON WEBSITE. (a) A

political subdivision to which this section applies shall post on a publicly accessible Internet website the following information:

(1) the political subdivision's contact information, including a mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address;

(2) each elected officer of the political subdivision;

(3) the date and location of the next election for officers of the political subdivision;

(4) the requirements and deadline for filing for candidacy of each elected office of the political subdivision, which shall be continuously posted for at least one year before the election day for the office;

(5) each notice of a meeting of the political subdivision's governing body under Subchapter C, Chapter 551; and

(6) each record of a meeting of the political subdivision's governing body under Section 551.021.

(b) Subsections (a)(5) and (6) do not apply to:

(1) a county with a population of less than 10,000;

(2) a municipality with a population of less than 5,000 located in a county with a population of less than 25,000; or

(3) a school district with a population of less than 5,000 in the district's boundaries and located in a county with a population of less than 25,000.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1029 (H.B. 305), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.